

STAR WARS

MARVEL

028

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MARVEL

#28



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YODA'S SECRET WAR

It is a time of renewed hope for the Rebel Alliance as heroic rebel soldiers strive to overthrow Imperial efforts throughout the galaxy.

When rebel droid C-3PO gets captured by Scar Squadron, a team of elite stormtroopers, R2-D2 takes off on a solo rescue mission, stranding Luke in his X-wing. While searching for R2-D2, Luke turns to the journal of Ben Kenobi, which contains a story from the earlier days of Master Yoda.

After a daring rescue, Yoda feels a calling in the Force and follows it – to a planet inhabited only by child warriors. The warriors lead the Jedi Master to a sacred rock where they meditate to strengthen their “stonepower”. Jealous of Yoda’s abilities with the Force, they send him deep into the heart of the mountain to seek a mysterious power....

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AND SO THE JEDI MASTER
CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN,
FEELING THAT EACH STEP
WAS BRINGING HIM CLOSER
TO UNLOCKING ITS SECRETS.

BUT THERE WERE
VERY MANY STEPS.

AND HIS TRAVELING
COMPANION DID
NOT SHARE HIS THIRST
FOR ANSWERS.

HOW...
HOW ARE YOU
STILL...

YOU MOVE
LIKE YOU'RE A THOUSAND
YEARS OLD...BUT YOU'VE BEEN
WALKING AT THE EXACT SAME
PACE...FOR HOURS.

MOUNTAIN
WILL NOT COME
TO US. NO OTHER
WAY THERE IS.

YOU GO INSIDE THAT MOUNTAIN,
YOU'RE NEVER COMING OUT.

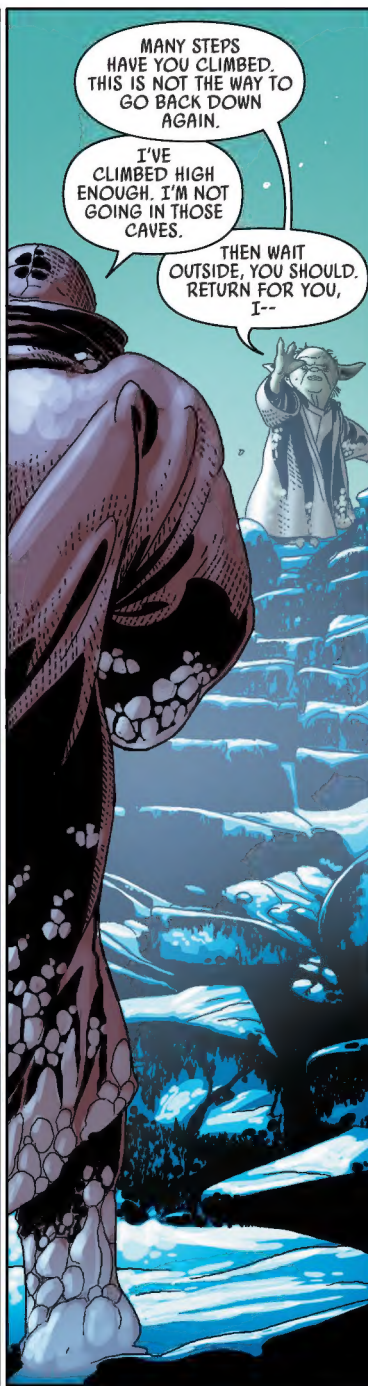
EVERY DAY
THEY SEND PRISONERS
INSIDE. SEND THEM TO FIND
THE HEART OF THE
MOUNTAIN.

NONE OF
THEM HAVE EVER BEEN
SEEN AGAIN.

FIND THEM
WE WILL. OR SUFFER
THEIR FATE. EITHER WAY,
A GREAT MYSTERY AT
LAST WILL BE
SOLVED.



NOT
FOR ME.



MANY STEPS
HAVE YOU CLIMBED.
THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO
GO BACK DOWN
AGAIN.

I'VE
CLIMBED HIGH
ENOUGH. I'M NOT
GOING IN THOSE
CAVES.

THEN WAIT
OUTSIDE, YOU SHOULD.
RETURN FOR YOU,
I--

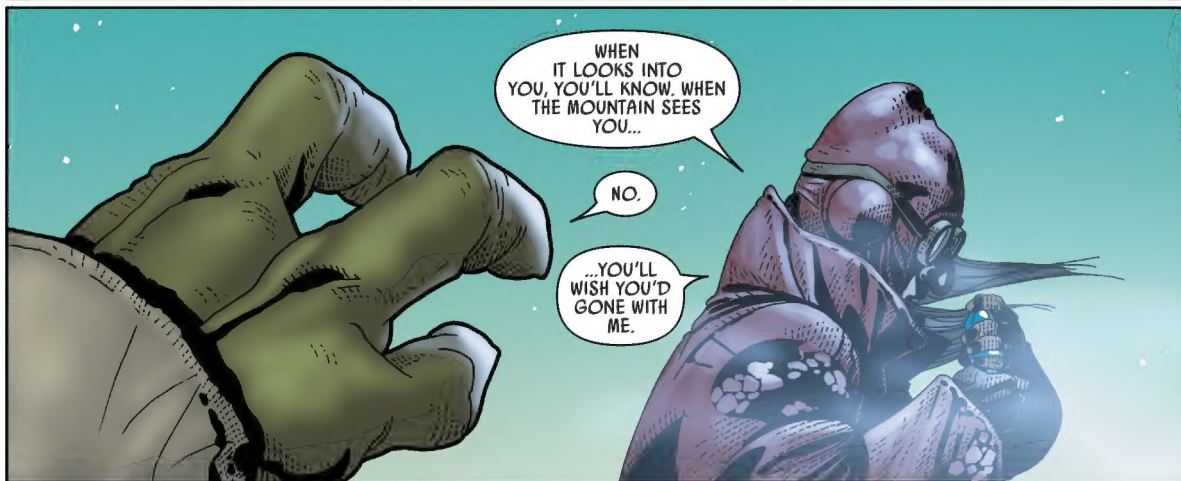


YOU CAN
STOP TRYING TO USE
YOUR POWER ON ME. I KNOW
IT WON'T WORK WHEN I'M
HOLDING THIS
STONE.

YOU'RE
TOO WEAK TO
SAVE EITHER ONE
OF US.

ONLY
IF HELP ME YOU
DO NOT. OR TELL
ME WHAT I--

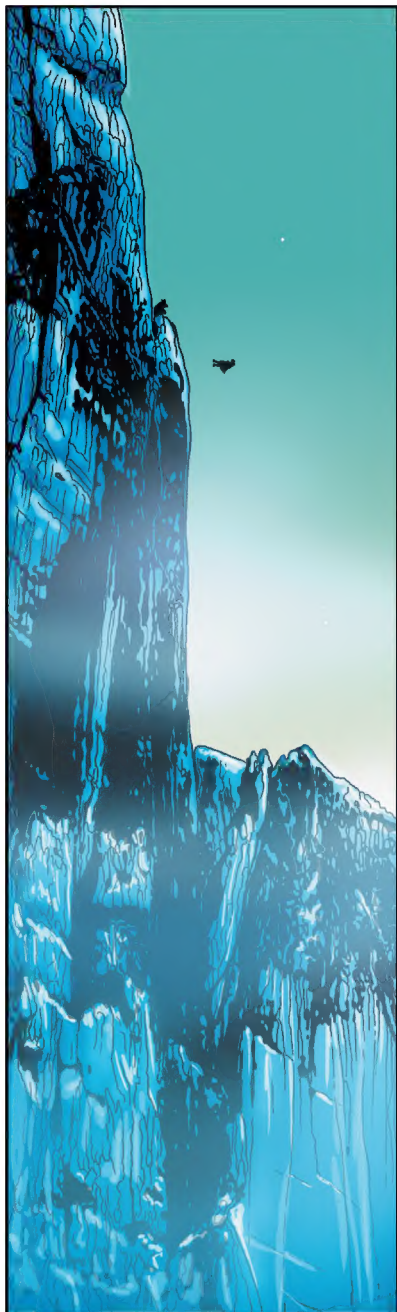
I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO TELL YOU
SINCE YOU FREED ME
FROM THE MUCKWHACKERS'
CELL, BUT YOU STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS
EVEN IS, DO YOU? THIS
MOUNTAIN. YOU HAVEN'T
FELT IT YET.



WHEN
IT LOOKS INTO
YOU, YOU'LL KNOW. WHEN
THE MOUNTAIN SEES
YOU...

NO.

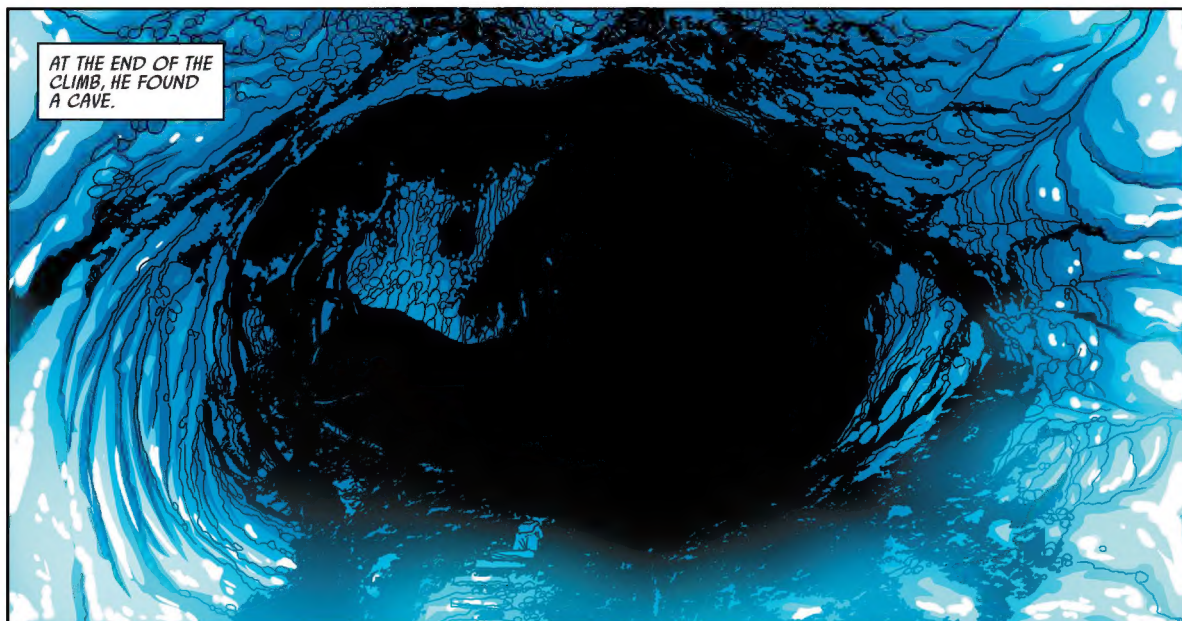
...YOU'LL
WISH YOU'D
GONE WITH
ME.



THE JEDI MASTER
CLIMBED THE REST
OF THE WAY ALONE.



MORE THAN THE CLIMB...
IT WAS THE SILENCE THAT
PAINED HIM.



AT THE END OF THE CLIMB, HE FOUND A CAVE.



IT WAS NO ORDINARY CAVE.



THAT MUCH WAS OBVIOUS.



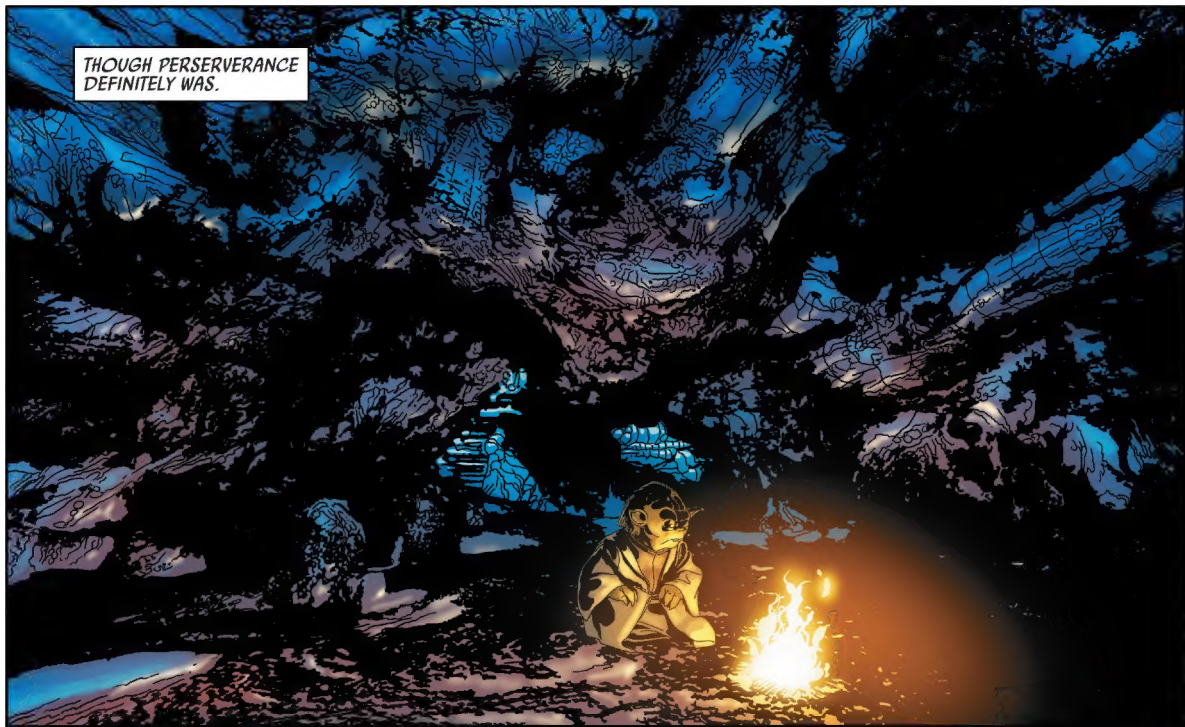
EVEN BEFORE IT CLOSED BEHIND HIM.



BUT THE JEDI DID NOT HESITATE.

FOR FEAR WAS NOT IN HIS NATURE.

THOUGH PERSISTENCE
DEFINITELY WAS.



HMMM.



HRRGN. SORRY
IF THE SOUND OF
CREAKING BONES HAS
STARTLED YOU, MY
FRIENDS.



WORRY NOT.
NEVER EAT YOU
WILL I.



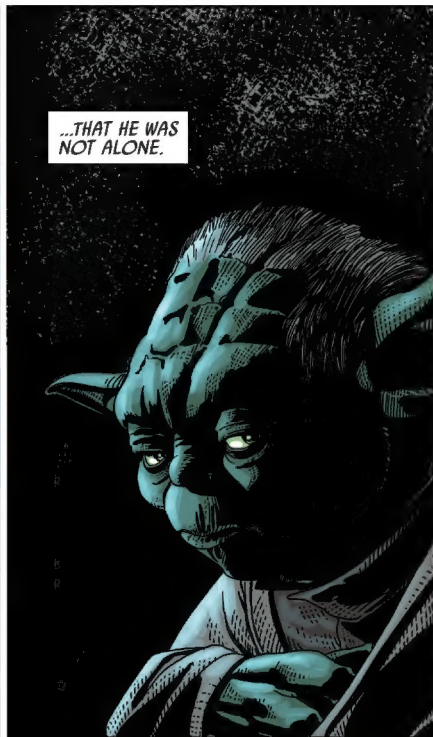
OTHER
SUSTENANCE DO
I CRAVE.



HE WALKED THE
CAVERNS FOR MANY
DAYS. MEDITATING.
EXPLORING.



HIS ONLY
COMPANION WAS
THE GROWING
SENSE...



...THAT HE WAS
NOT ALONE.



COME TO
FIGHT I HAVE NOT.
LOST LIKE YOU I
AM.

WE'RE NOT
LOST.



WE'RE
EXACTLY WHERE
WE WANT TO
BE.
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO NEEDS
TO...TO...



WAIT,
HE'S NOT ONE
OF OUR...

HE'S...
HE'S A...WHAT
IS HE?

WE THOUGHT
YOU WERE ONE OF
THEM. ONE OF THOSE
LITTLE MONSTERS
FROM OUTSIDE.

ONE OF OUR
CHILDREN.

THE MISSING
PARENTS.



TRAPPED YOU
DOWN HERE, YOUR
CHILDREN DID. SENT
YOU TO FIND THE HEART
OF THE MOUNTAIN, AS
THEY SENT ME.

HRPH.
YES, THEY
SENT US DOWN
HERE. BUT WHO
SAID WE WERE
TRAPPED?

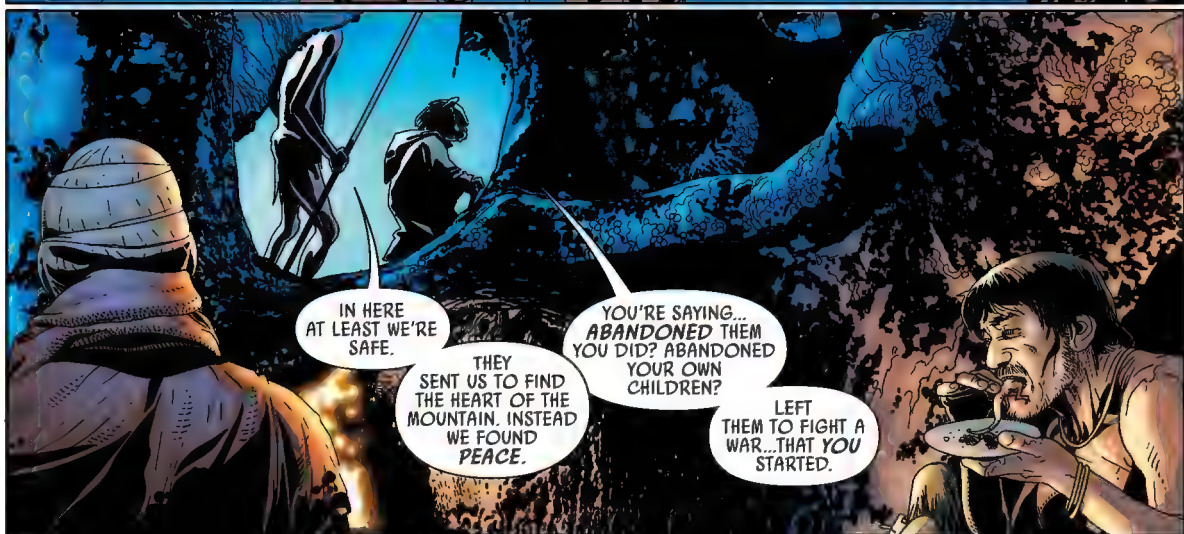


WHAT REASON DO WE HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?

WHAT'S LEFT FOR US OUTSIDE THESE CAVES?

WAR, THAT'S WHAT.

NOTHING BUT WAR.



IN HERE AT LEAST WE'RE SAFE.

THEY SENT US TO FIND THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAIN. INSTEAD WE FOUND PEACE.

YOU'RE SAYING... ABANDONED THEM YOU DID? ABANDONED YOUR OWN CHILDREN?

LEFT THEM TO FIGHT A WAR... THAT YOU STARTED.



CLEARLY YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, BUT YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY MET THE LITTLE BEASTS.

THEY'RE ANIMALS. YOU SEE HOW THEY BRANDED US?

THIS IS THE MARK OF THE ANCIENT ONES. THE LONG-DEAD FOREFATHERS. THAT'S WHAT WE ARE TO THEM.

WE MAY HAVE STARTED THE WAR, BUT THEY REFUSED TO LIVE WITHOUT IT.



FROM YOU THEY WERE Sired. WHAT THEY ARE, IS WHAT YOU HAVE MADE OF THEM.

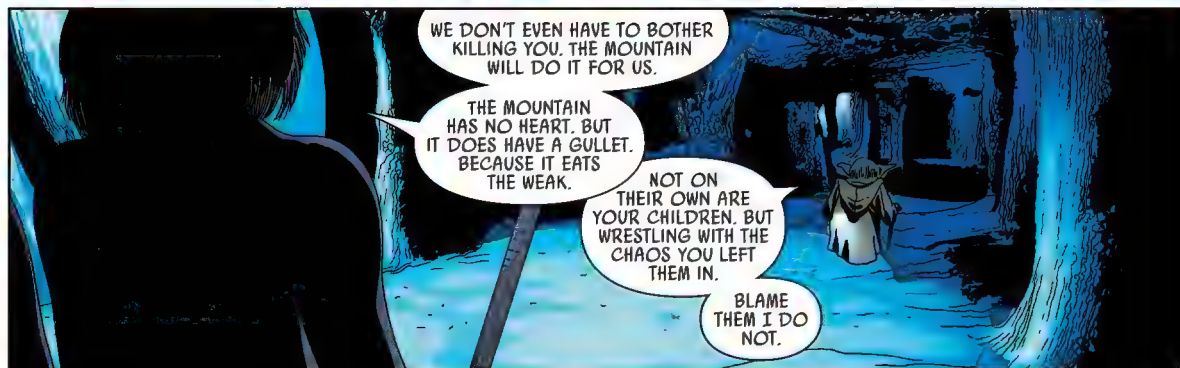
WHAT YOUR WAR HAS MADE OF THEM.



THEY'RE NOT OUR CHILDREN ANYMORE. THEY'RE ON THEIR OWN.

AND SO ARE YOU, LITTLE STRANGER.

GET GOING.



WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BOTHER KILLING YOU. THE MOUNTAIN WILL DO IT FOR US.

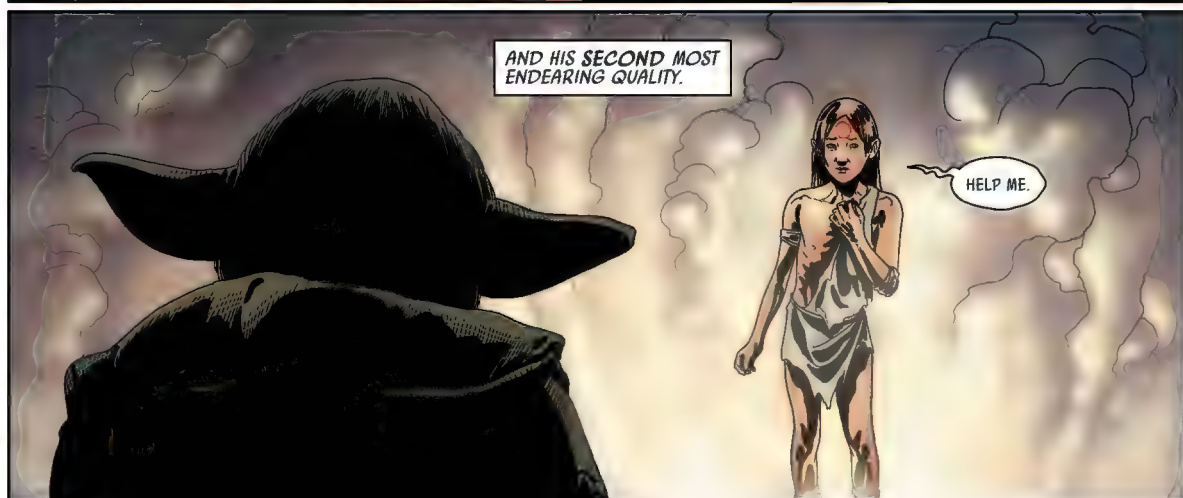
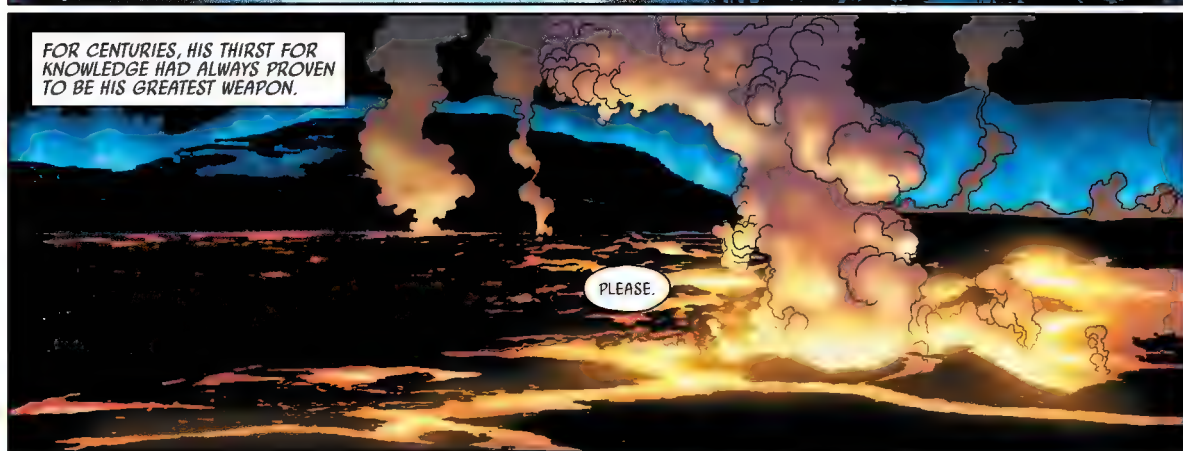
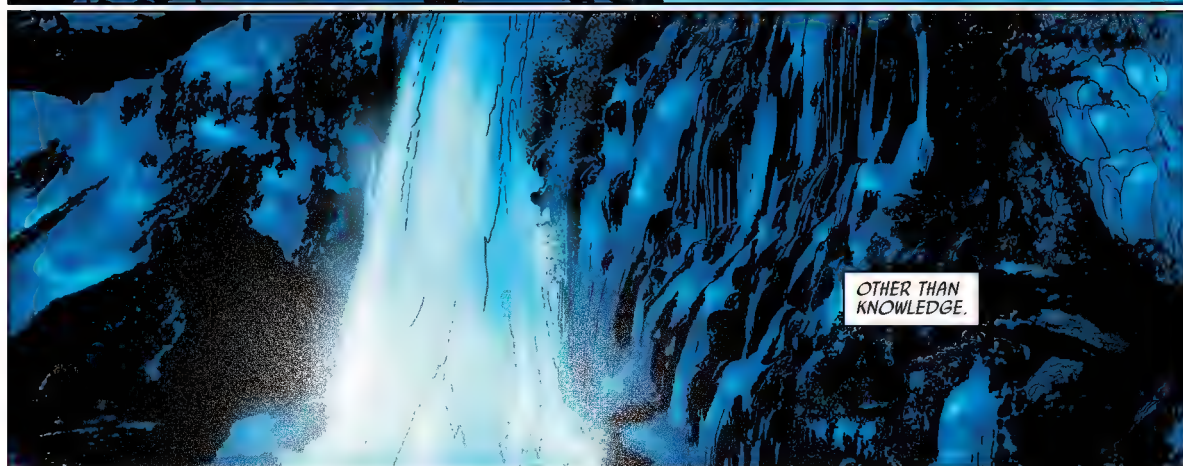
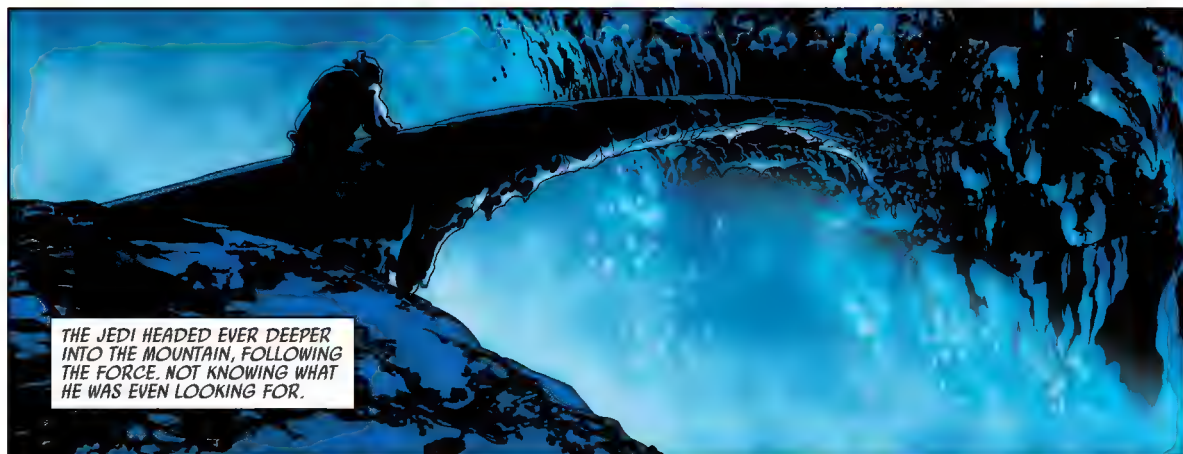
THE MOUNTAIN HAS NO HEART. BUT IT DOES HAVE A GULLET. BECAUSE IT EATS THE WEAK.

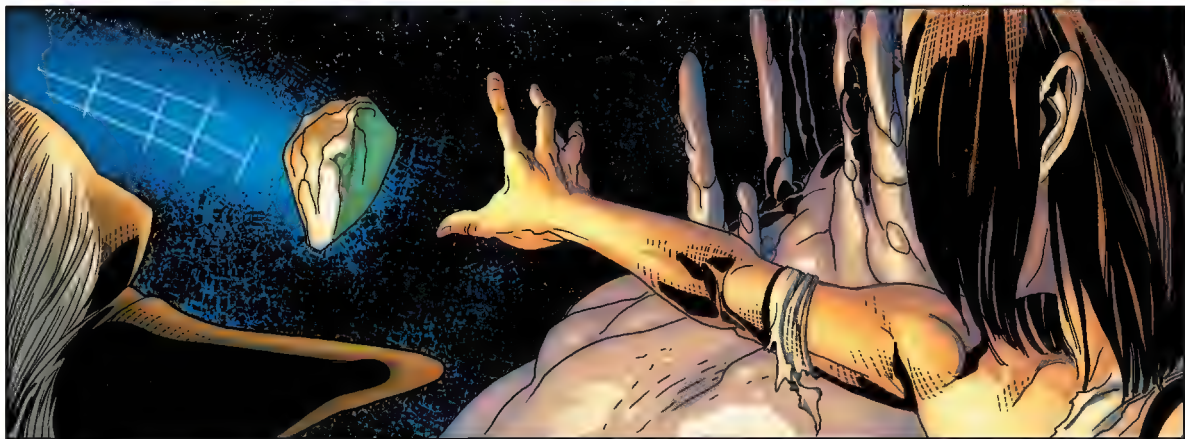
NOT ON THEIR OWN ARE YOUR CHILDREN. BUT WRESTLING WITH THE CHAOS YOU LEFT THEM IN.

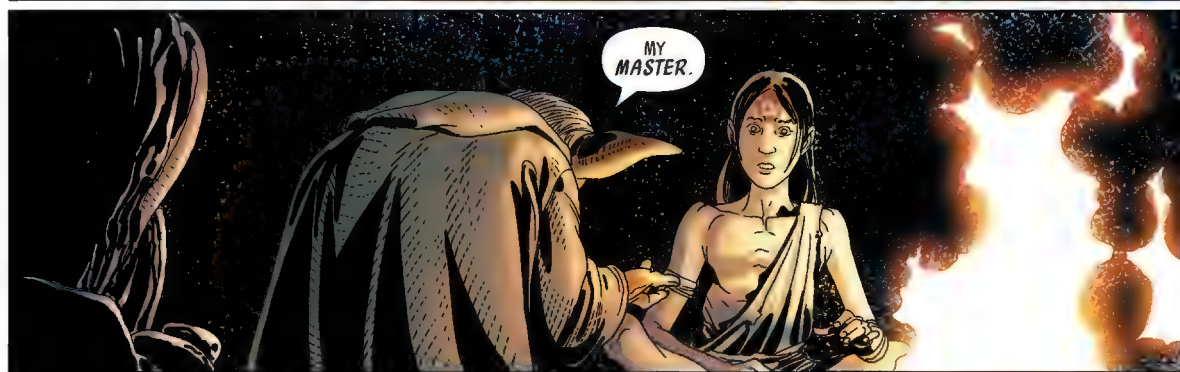
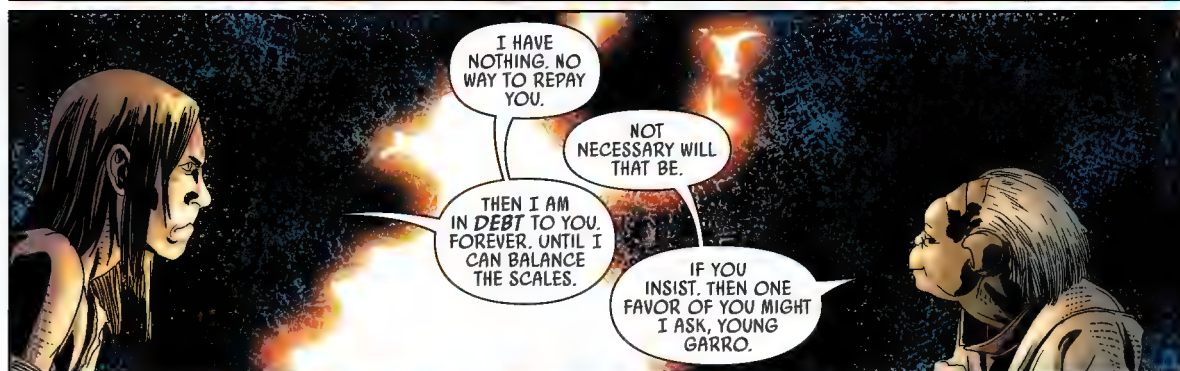
BLAME THEM I DO NOT.



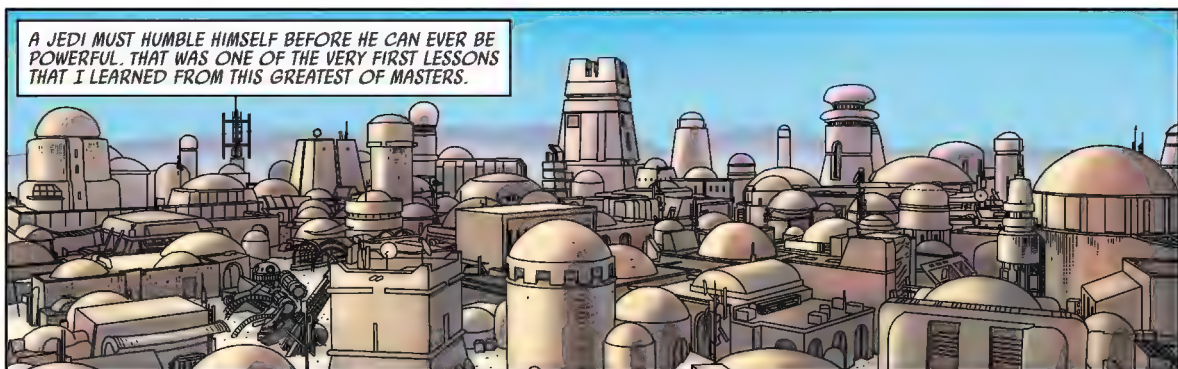
"BETTER *TEACHERS* THEY DESERVED."



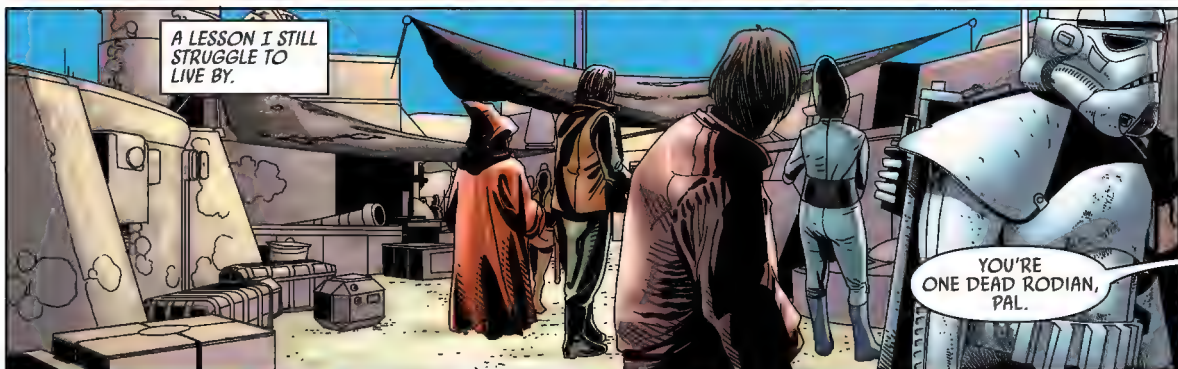




A JEDI MUST HUMBLE HIMSELF BEFORE HE CAN EVER BE POWERFUL. THAT WAS ONE OF THE VERY FIRST LESSONS THAT I LEARNED FROM THIS GREATEST OF MASTERS.



A LESSON I STILL STRUGGLE TO LIVE BY.



YOU'RE ONE DEAD RODIAN, PAL.

YOU SO MUCH AS TOUCH THAT WEAPON AND I'LL BLAST YOU INTO STARDUST.



<THE ONLY THING THAT WILL BE BLASTED WILL BE YOUR UGLY FACE.>*

*TRANSLATED FROM HUTTESE.

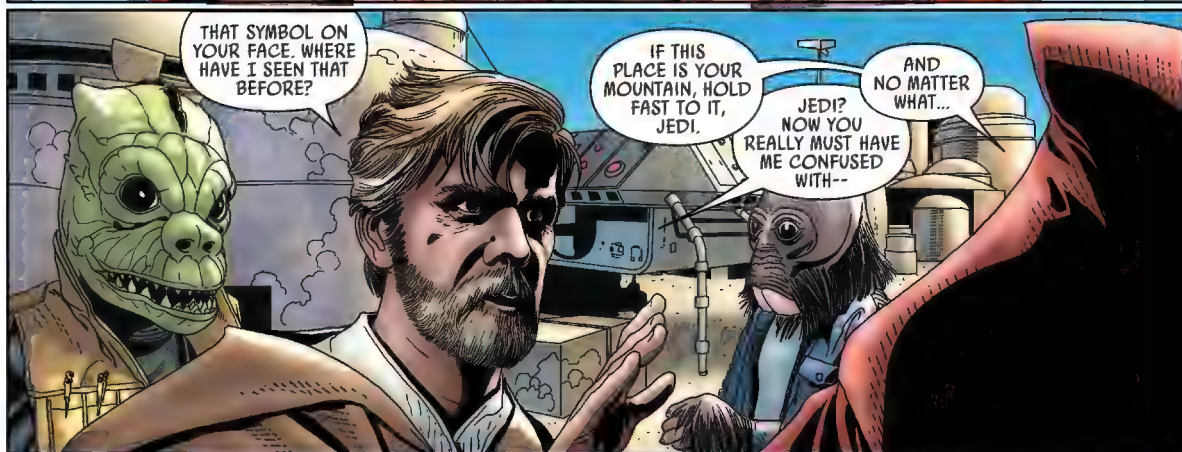
<DRAW YOUR BLASTER...IF YOU HAVE THE GUTS.>



WHY DON'T I BUY YOU A DRINK INSTEAD?







THAT IS WHY STORIES MUST
BE PRESERVED AND PASSED
ON. SO THE LEARNING
NEVER STOPS.

THAT SYMBOL.
WHY DOES THAT LOOK
SO FAMILIAR? LOOKS
ALMOST LIKE A...

ESSFOR,
IF YOU'RE DONE
NAPPING, HOW ABOUT
YOU RUN THIS SYMBOL
AGAINST ALL KNOWN
STAR MAPS?

I
KNEW IT. SET
COURSE FOR THE
VAGADARR
SYSTEM.

THIS COULD
BE IT. THIS COULD
BE WHAT I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR ALL
THIS TIME.

THIS
IS HOW I SAVE
THREEPIO AND
ARTOO.

THIS IS HOW
I FINALLY BECOME
A JEDI.

NO MATTER HOW OLD WE GROW, THERE
IS ALWAYS SOMETHING ELSE OUT THERE...

...WAITING TO
BE LEARNED.

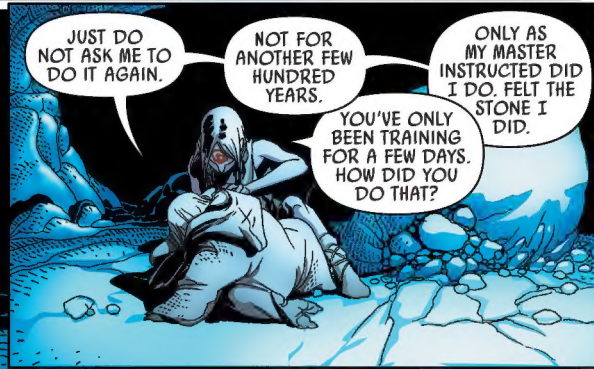






HOW DID YOU...

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE ELSE MOVE A STONE THAT BIG.



JUST DO NOT ASK ME TO DO IT AGAIN.

NOT FOR ANOTHER FEW HUNDRED YEARS.

ONLY AS MY MASTER INSTRUCTED DID I DO. FELT THE STONE I DID.

YOU'VE ONLY BEEN TRAINING FOR A FEW DAYS. HOW DID YOU DO THAT?



FELT IT... BREATHING.



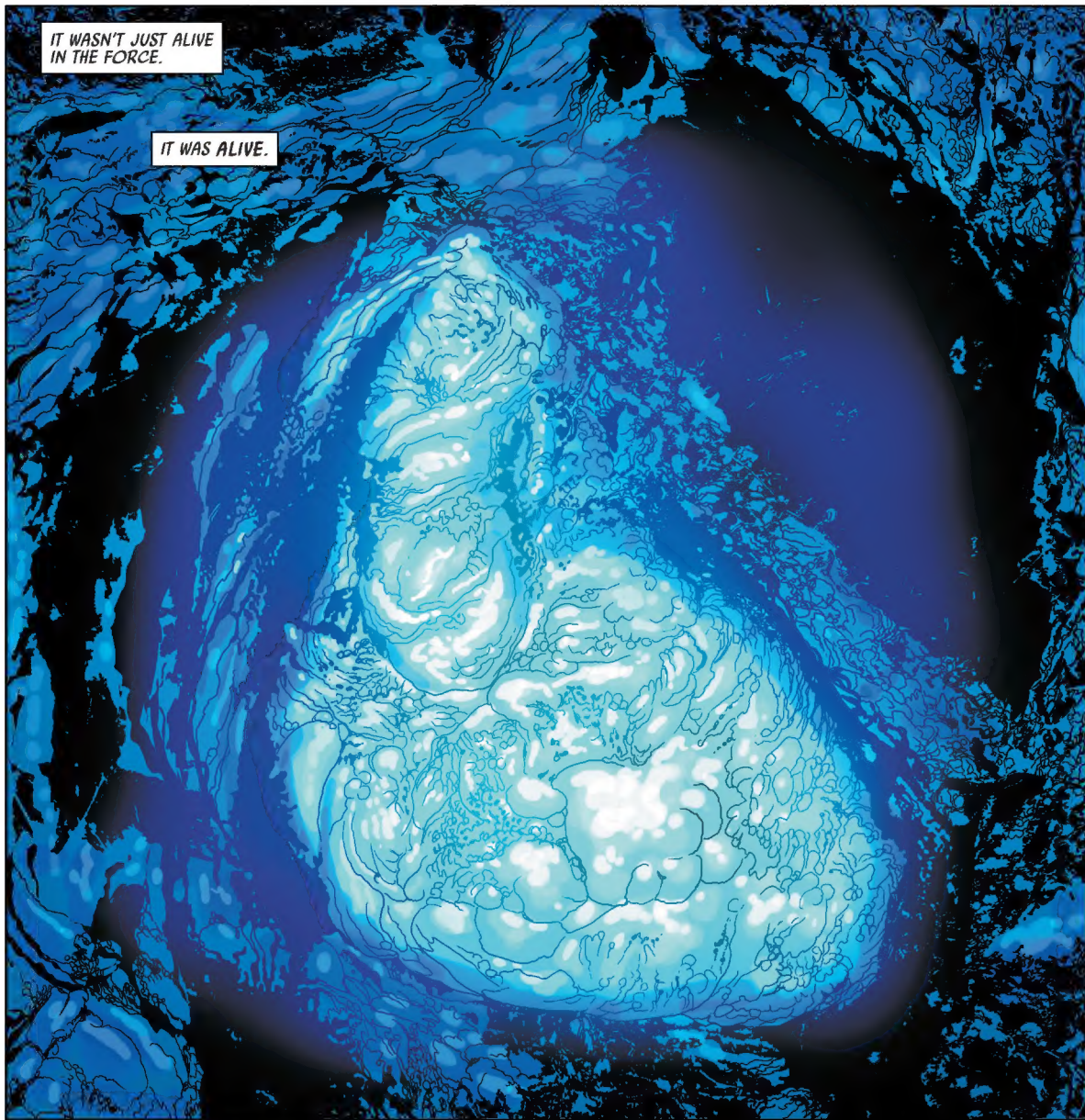
THE STONE WAS ALIVE IN THE FORCE IN A WAY THE JEDI HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED.



AND AT LAST HE UNDERSTOOD WHY.

IT WASN'T JUST ALIVE
IN THE FORCE.

IT WAS ALIVE.



THE
HEART OF THE
MOUNTAIN.

WE DID
IT. WE FOUND
IT.

YES.
THE HEART
THIS IS.



BUT A
MOUNTAIN...THIS
IS NOT.



STAR WARS™ NEXT ISSUE!

